

REMARKS:

- 1) The Examiner's attention is directed to the following formal or procedural matters:
 - a) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please approve the Formal Drawings that were filed with this application on February 15, 2002.
 - b) Referring to item 12) of the Office Action Summary, please acknowledge the Foreign Priority Claim and receipt of the Certified Copy of the foreign priority document. The Certified Copy was filed herein on July 22, 2002.
 - c) On the acknowledgment copy of our IDS Form PTO-1449 of July 22, 2002 enclosed with the Office Action, the Examiner has initialed references AA to AD, but has not initialed reference AE further down on the form. It appears that the failure to initial reference AE may simply have been an oversight. Please return a fully initialed acknowledgment copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449 together with the next official communication.
- 2) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior dependent claim 4.

Claim 4 has been canceled.

New independent claim 18 is based on a combination of original claims 1 and 5.

New independent claim 19 is based on a combination of original claims 1, 11, 12 and 16.

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- 11 -

New dependent claims 20 and 21 are respectively based on the subject matter of original claims 14 and 15.

These amendments, which merely involve the combination of claim features, do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

- 3) Referring to the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in original claims 4, 5 and 16 is appreciated. After the present amendment, all claims now incorporate indicated allowable subject matter.

Amended independent claim 1 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3 and 5 to 17 should now be allowable.

New independent claim 18 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, claim 18 should now be allowable.

New independent claim 19 incorporates the allowable subject matter of original claim 16. Accordingly, claim 19 and its dependent claims 20 and 21 should now be allowable.

- 4) Referring to pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the prior art rejections of claims 1 to 3, 6 to 15 and 17 have been obviated by the present amendments. Each of the present independent claims 1, 18 and 19 incorporates allowable subject matter from original claims that had not been rejected. Thus, the rejections cannot be maintained.

- 5) The additional prior art made of record requires no particular comments because it has not been applied against the claims.
- 6) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 21, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

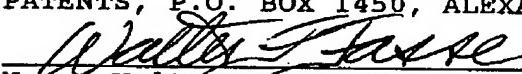
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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 8/18/04
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: August 18, 2004